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1. British to take position on European unification--According to US Embassy London, the British Foreign Office will probably soon make important policy decisions concerning the British attitude toward the unification of Europe. High Foreign Office officials have indicated that the key questions in determining the British position are: (a) how far the UK is willing to restrict its freedom of action and impair relationships with the Commonwealth; and (b) how far the US actually wants the UK to go in involving itself irrevocably on the Continent. The officials declared that there is no thought of altering British military obligations under the Brussels Treaty but that the UK has no intention of stipulating in advance the number of troops it would commit to a given area.

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2. Estimated effect of atom developments on Soviet aims--US Embassy Moscow, in making a tentative comment on the probable effect on Soviet policy of recent developments concerning the atom bomb, expresses the view that the basic US estimates concerning Soviet intentions need not be altered. The Embassy considers that even though the unanticipated Soviet progress in the atomic field might advance the date on which the Kremlin would be prepared to begin hostilities, this date would by no means be in the near future. The Embassy estimates, however, that the Kremlin will consider its hand strengthened in current foreign relations, will be inclined toward increased firmness in negotiations, and will try to exploit popular fear throughout the world. Concerning the problems of atomic energy control, the Embassy believes that the USSR will try to stampede the West into acceptance of the Soviet proposal.

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3. Bevin to sound out Vishinsky on Austrian treaty--According to the US delegation at the Austrian treaty talks in New York, the foreign ministers of the three western powers have agreed that British Foreign Secretary Bevin will approach Foreign Minister Vishinsky informally to ascertain whether the Soviet stand on the treaty is as inflexible as it now appears to be. Bevin will reportedly attempt to learn whether the USSR really wants a treaty at this time and what the minimum Soviet position is. Bevin has submitted to the US and French delegations a set of proposals on the outstanding issues which could be used as a basis for a comprehensive settlement, but he will not commit the western powers in his talk with Vishinsky.

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4. Chinese Nationalist-Korean military negotiations--US Ambassador Muccio at Seoul verifies the recent persistent rumors concerning Chinese Nationalist negotiations for Korean base privileges in exchange for arms aid to President Rhee's Government. Muccio reports that the initiative in these negotiations, which began during the Chiang-Rhee conference in late August, has been wholly Chinese, and the Korean Government has been reluctant to commit itself to any agreement which would risk involvement in the Chinese civil war. According to Muccio, the Chinese wanted Korean bases for carrying out the Nationalist air and sea blockade of the north China coast as well as permission to establish intelligence installations in Korea; they were unwilling to assure Chinese naval assistance in the event of war with the northern Korean regime, offering only a Chinese fighter-bomber group. Rhee is reportedly seeking a means of terminating the discussions and has assured US Embassy Seoul that no concessions will be made.

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